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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING HELD FOR
VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

United States Attorney David M. Nissman and Virgin Islands Police Commissioner Elton Lewis announced today that during the week of June 7- 11, 2004, an intensive civil rights course was conducted on both St. Thomas and St. Croix for Virgin Islands police officers. The course covered several aspects of civil rights laws and enforcement, including instruction on what constitutes excessive force.

The purpose of the Civil Rights training was to educate the officers about the statutory provisions of federal civil rights laws and the officers' legal responsibilities under those laws. The training used case scenarios as teaching points to illustrate common issues with these type of investigations. The various roles that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division and the local U.S. Attorney's Office play in the investigation

and prosecution of alleged civil rights violations were also discussed. Instructors for the course included attorneys from the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, the local U.S. Attorney's Office and special agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Attorney Nissman stated that this training was due in part from a request by Commissioner Lewis in his efforts to have a better trained and effective police department. Attorney Nissman expressed his appreciation to R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and Luis S. Fraticelli, Special Agent In Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation for their assistance in making this training possible. He also expressed his appreciation to the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA for the funding of this training.